

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 00222 211558Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
SAJ-01 ACDA-07 BIB-01 SCA-01 TRSE-00 /081 W
-----212114Z 129122 /64

R 211500Z JAN 77
FM UMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3862
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USBERLIN 0222

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WG
SUBJECT: FORMER GDR RESIDENTS PREVENTED FROM VISITING EAST BERLIN

REF: A) USBER 0181, B) USBER 0202

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS BY BERLIN OFFICIALS WHICH SUGGESTED THAT SENAT WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT LARGE NUMBER OF FORMER GDR RESIDENTS RECENTLY PREVENTED FROM VISITING EAST BERLIN (REFTELS), SENAT HAS NOW MADE STATEMENT EXPRESSING SERIOUS CONCERN OVER SUCH REFUSALS. SENAT PLANS TO RAISE MATTER FORMALLY AT NEXT MEETING OF VISITS COMMISSIONERS. END SUMMARY.

2. WHEN BERLIN PRESS REPORTED THAT OVER WEEKEND (JAN. 15/16) LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS, APPARENTLY ALL FORMER RESIDENTS OF GDR, HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO VISIT EAST BERLIN BY EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS, REACTION OF SENAT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 00222 211558Z

CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ ON JAN. 18 WAS THAT PRESS HAD PROBABLY EXAGGERATED (REFTEL A). SENAT VISITS COMMISSIONER KUNZE EXPRESSED IGNORANCE OF MATTER WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT IT SAME DAY. FOLLOWING DAY, JAN. 19, GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ REFERRED TO MATTER DURING HIS ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL B) AND SAID HE WAS NOT UNDULY CONCERNED AND EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT GDR WAS EXCLUDING ANY

PARTICULAR CATEGORY OF PERSONS.

3. SENAT HAS RESEARCHED MATTER MORE THOROUGHLY AND NOW APPARENTLY HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT IS MORE SERIOUS THAN ORIGINALLY BELIEVED. SENAT ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRESS ON JAN. 20 WHICH WAS CARRIED IN MAJOR BERLIN PAPERS JAN. 21:

BEGIN TEXT: IN RECENT DAYS, A LARGE NUMBER OF WEST BERLINERS HAVE BEEN REFUSED VISITS TO EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR BY THE AUTHORITIES THERE. IN SOME CASES, THESE BERLINERS WERE SENT BACK AT THE CROSSING POINTS ALTHOUGH THEY HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION THE CORRECT ENTRY DOCUMENTS; IN OTHER CASES, THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ENTRY DOCUMENTS WERE REJECTED. ALL OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED HAD BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION BY THE GDR AUTHORITIES TO LEGALLY EMIGRATE TO WEST BERLIN AND WERE MAINTAINING FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITH RESIDENTS OF EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR. IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN FIFTY-ONE SUCH CASES REGISTERED WITH THE COMPLAINTS OFFICE OF THE TRAVEL AND VISITS COMMISSION. PREVIOUSLY, THE GDR AUTHORITIES HAD GRANTED TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED PERMISSION TO VISIT EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRAVEL AND VISITS AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 20, 1971, THE GDR IN AN "ORAL DECLARATION BY STATE SECRETARY KOHRT" DETERMINED THAT PROHIBITION OF ENTRY TO SUCH PERSONS WOULD ONLY BE MADE WHERE IT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THEY HAD COMMITTED CRIMINAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USBERL 00222 211558Z

ACTS ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE GDR. AN EXAMINATION OF THE CURRENT CASES HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

THE SENAT OF BERLIN THEREFORE HAS VIEWED THIS CURRENT DEVELOPMENT WITH THE NECESSARY CONCERN. IT WILL NOT LOOK ON DISINTERESTEDLY AS THE GDR AUTHORITIES SEEK TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS AT THE EXPENSE OF ESTABLISHED AGREEMENTS.

THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CHARGED TO EXAMINE EVERY CASE CAREFULLY. IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE SENAT FOR TRAVEL AND VISITS WILL SEEK TO RESOLVE THESE CASES WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE OTHER SIDE AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE 8 OF THE AGREEMENT ON TRAVEL AND VISITS OF DECEMBER 20, 1971. END TEXT.

4. MISSION HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT SENAT COMMISSIONER HAS SENT TELEX TO EAST GERMAN COUNTERPART MITDANK ASKING

FOR URGENT MEETING IN EAST BERLIN AT 10:00 AM ON MODAY, JAN. 24.

DAVIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0464
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770128/aaaaayhg.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6bc6b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USBERLIN 181, 77 USBERLIN 202
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3531329
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER GDR RESIDENTS PREVENTED FROM VISITING EAST BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, GC, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6bc6b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009